

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A nozzle for dispensing a liquid filament onto a moving strand, comprising:

a nozzle body having a liquid supply port, an air supply port, and a liquid discharge outlet coupled in fluid communication with said liquid supply port; and

an air outlet formed in said nozzle body, said air outlet coupled in fluid communication with said air supply port, and said ~~process~~ air outlet oriented to discharge air impinging the strand ~~before~~ without influencing movement of the liquid filament ~~[[is]]~~ as the filament is dispensed from said liquid discharge outlet onto the strand, the air contacting the moving strand prior to the filament contacting the strand to remove particulates from the strand at a location upstream relative to said liquid discharge outlet.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein said nozzle body includes a downstream surface relative to the movement of the strand and an upstream surface opposite to said downstream surface, said liquid discharge outlet being located on said downstream surface and said air outlet being located on said upstream surface.

5. (Previously Presented) The nozzle of claim 1, further comprising a strand guide including a notch, said notch positioned proximate to said liquid discharge outlet and configured to receive and guide the movement of the strand.

6. (Currently Amended) The nozzle of claim 1 wherein said nozzle body includes an upstream surface relative to the movement of the strand, said air outlet being formed in said upstream surface.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An applicator for dispensing a liquid filament onto a moving strand, comprising:

a module having a liquid supply passage and an air supply passage;

a nozzle having a liquid discharge ~~passage-connected~~ outlet coupled in fluid communication with said liquid supply passage; and

an air outlet ~~and an air passage formed in said nozzle, said air outlet~~ coupled in fluid communication with said air supply passage, said air outlet oriented to discharge air impinging the strand ~~before~~ without influencing movement of the liquid filament ~~[[is]]~~ as the filament is dispensed from said liquid discharge passage onto the

strand, the air contacting the moving strand prior to the filament contacting the strand to remove particulates from the strand at a location upstream relative to said liquid discharge outlet.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The applicator of claim 8, wherein said nozzle ~~body~~ includes a downstream surface relative to the movement of the strand and an upstream surface opposite to said downstream surface, said liquid discharge outlet being located on said downstream surface and said air outlet being located on said upstream surface.

12. (Currently Amended) The applicator of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 23, wherein said air discharged from said air outlet is oriented to maintain a non-contacting relationship between said strand guide and the strand.

13. (Currently Amended) The applicator of claim 8 wherein said nozzle includes an upstream surface relative to the movement of the strand, said air outlet being formed in said upstream surface.

14-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The nozzle of claim 5, wherein said air discharged from said air outlet is oriented to maintain a non-contacting relationship between said strand guide and the strand.

23. (New) The nozzle of claim 8, further comprising a strand guide including a notch, said notch positioned proximate to said liquid discharge outlet and configured to receive and guide the movement of the strand.